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LEMBAGA PEMBELA HAK-HAK AZASI MANUSIA

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To: H.E the Minister of the Netherlands
Development Cooperation
Mr. J.P. Pronk

Your Excellency,

Allow us to avail ourselves of the opportunity to bring the following points to your attention:

1. In the course of the de-colonization process all over the world, which took place in the 19th and 20th centuries, people thought freedom was of the highest priority in their development and that of their countries.
2. By the continuation of economical strings both sides, the colonizer and the colonized considered economical interests to be of the utmost importance despite the fact that cultural and religious aspects were sometimes forgotten.

In the de-colonization period after World War II, attention towards the rights of man increased in the former colonies and the colonising countries as well. After the acceptance of the declaration of Human Rights in 1948 by the members of the United Nations, the Declaration was considered as a guiding principle for nearly every country on this globe. Nearly all states recognized these rights of the individual citizens towards their own governments in their constitutions as is the case in the Indonesian constitution of 1945 which respects some rights for Indonesian citizens.

It is to be regretted however that important rights such as the right of freedom of speech and the right to organize oneself have been severely limited and restricted by other laws and regulations. The principle of the double function of the military and the existence of the anti-subversive law eventually abolished most of the freedoms of the Indonesian citizens and makes it impossible for Indonesian citizens to utter their opinion about the ever increasing repression of the present government.

In Indonesia it was and is possible that a president governs his country for 25 years on end without any practical control by the people's constituent assembly or parliament in which bodies actually the sovereignty of the people is imbedded.

It is indeed true that those matters are the internal affairs of countries involved and should be attended to and watched over by the people themselves.

But since the formation of the United Nations and the Helsinki accords violations of Human Rights and the respect being paid to them are no longer a matter of internal or national interest alone. It is very important to know whether other peoples are governed in democratic ways, because only in a democracy Human Rights can be respected.

In the struggle for their freedom, thousands of Indonesians gave their lives. Sovereignty of the people was for them not an empty word or without significance at all.

Impoverishment and poverty gave thought to radical changes with consequences, which cannot be overseen yet. They can also be considered to be a part of the

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Jl. Menteng Kecil 10 Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia, Telp. 342608

de-colonization process and it is therefore logical that former colonial states feel themselves responsible for difficult situations in their former colonies. We share the opinion that such an attitude could be in the interest of both parties. But in the case of Indonesia it is doubtful who is profiting the most, the donors or the receivers, because most donors are so called export-economies, whose welfare is very dependent on the export of commodities and articles produced by them.

The maintenance of good market possibilities must also reckon with the fact that prosperity can best be served by free market methods and democracy, including respect for Human Rights. By sponsoring development in Indonesia, certain Human Rights are promoted, but one must not forget that the present regime in Indonesia has only resulted in the reality that 80% of the population in the villages is spending 80% of their daily income on buying the necessary food. That is the outcome of the trickle-down effect theory!

Is this the result of 25 years development acceleration and (5) five-years plans? It can be imagined that these disappointing facts are not very often mentioned in the reports of the World bank, the International monetary Fund or other international organizations. The effects of the 55 billion dollar debt of Indonesian to be paid by later generations are usually forgotten, because present day conglomerates and multi-national organizations profit from them!

IGGI aid is profitable to the government in Indonesia, as it allows them to remain good friends with the entrepreneurs and to go on with the violations of Human Rights. This type of aid makes it also possible for all criticism against corruption, nepotism, and monopolism to be effectively silenced.

Reports from international Human Rights organizations like Amnesty International and Asia Watch clearly describe the real Human Rights situation in Indonesia and should be heeded before new decisions in connection with aid are being made. These reports are not less important than those of the word bank and the international monetary Fund which are very much dominated by the interests of the multi-national corporations.

We hope, Your Excellency, that you are equally aware that giving economical and financial aid to other countries cannot be separated from Human Rights situations. We trust that you will use this visit to explain this to the Indonesian authorities you are going to meet.

We dare place ourselves in the position of the Indonesian people who do not have the possibility to talk openly to you about repression and the violation of their Human Rights.

Last but not least, we hope also that you will address the Indonesian government about reviewing the death penalty still awaiting prisoners condemned thereto.

Your Excellency, please accept our most sincere thanks for your attention and goodwill.

Respectfully Yours,

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IJC Princen
Director